

# NOTICE OF INTENT

## Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

### Reef Fish Daily Take and Size Limits (LAC 76:VII.335)

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, acting under authority granted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission by resolution dated February 8, 1996 does hereby give notice of intent to amend a rule (Title 76:VII.335.G.1) raising the minimum size limit for red snapper harvested commercially, which is part of the existing rule for daily take, possession, and size limits for reef fishes set by the commission. Authority for adoption of this rule is included in R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3.

#### Title 76

#### WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

#### Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

#### Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

#### §335. Daily Take, Possession and Size Limits Set by Commission, Reef Fish

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G.	Species	Minimum Size Limits
1.	Red Snapper	15 inches total length (commercial) 15 inches total length (recreational)

\* \* \*

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:539 (June 1990), amended LR 19:1442 (November 1993), LR 20:797 (July 1994), LR 21:1267 (November 1995), LR 22:

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Harry Blanchet, Marine Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 3, 1996.

James H. Jenkins, Jr.  
Secretary

#### FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

#### RULE TITLE: Reef Fish Daily Take and Size Limits

#### I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

There will be no state or local governmental implementation costs.

#### II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

There will be no effect on revenues to any state or local governmental units from the proposed rule.

#### III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

Rule is intended to provide consistent regulations for commercial fishers for red snapper in state waters and in adjacent federal waters. The proposed regulation would increase the minimum size limit from 14 inches to 15 inches (total length) for these harvesters. This change will reduce harvest efficiency by reducing the number of smaller red snapper available for commercial harvest. There is a slightly higher dockside price per pound for the smaller sized fish. Reduction of harvest of this size fish will slightly reduce revenues from the harvest of the species. This change is estimated to be about \$3000 per year over the state fishery. Long-term economic benefits of an undetermined magnitude may also accrue to fishermen in both recreational and commercial sectors as a result of a small increase in the size of red snapper stocks protected by the proposed limits. The dimensions of this benefit are not estimable at this time, due to lack of data. Direct costs to the fishermen for permits and fees would not be affected by the proposed rule.

#### IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

This rule may provide a slight negative effect on employment in the short term. Proposed rule may slightly reduce the short-term economic benefits from the commercial harvest of the species, thereby reducing employment potential. Some of these persons may redirect their fishing effort into other geographic areas, or into non-fishing activities. No data is presently available to estimate the dimensions of this change.

Fredrick J. Prejean  
Undersecretary  
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H. Gordon Monk  
Chief Coordinator of the  
Legislative Fiscal Office